

1. Developed a community involvement process that provided constructive participation in the cleanup of the site.
2. Served as the leader or risk taker in identifying the needs/concerns of the community and sought to meet those concerns.
3. Showed compassion and dedication when working with EPA, the state and the community in ensuring the site cleanup met both EPA's and the community's needs.
4. Actively participated in community meetings, disseminated information, and identified ways the EPA site team could work effectively with the community.
5. Worked successfully with the EPA site team to get input on future land use.
6. Effectively used community assets (e.g., volunteers and grants such as TAGs) so the community could effectively participate in the site cleanup process

DEAR LORD!!! These criteria look tailor made for Bruce and Marc!!

Bruce Merchant, Marc Hatton, Denise Keele and Sarah Hill have each and collectively made significant contributions to the Allied Landfill portion of the Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. They did so by engaging EPA in collaborative problem solving, addressing: risk communication, future land use as a way to further protectiveness of the remedy and other technical issues. It is due to their efforts that EPA was able to select a protective and implementable remedy, acceptable to the community and ultimately better than what EPA had previously intended to propose.

The Allied Paper Landfill is part of the larger Kalamazoo River Superfund site and contains 2.6 million tons of paper waste contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Besides the Allied Paper Landfill, the Kalamazoo River site includes three other landfills where the PCB wastes have successfully been consolidated and capped. EPA released the Allied Landfill feasibility study in January 2014, with potential cleanup alternatives ranging from no action (zero cost) to complete excavation and off-site disposal of the landfill (\$189 million)(wasn't the burrito more expensive?). EPA favored a consolidation and capping option (\$43 million), but the City and local community steadfastly opposed leaving any of the PCB contamination in place and publicly demanded total removal of the wastes, citing dire consequences to public health and threats to the City's drinking water supply. The community enlisted the support of state and federal elected officials, and organized and implemented a media campaign designed to put pressure on EPA to select complete waste excavation as the cleanup. Had EPA forged ahead with its remedy selection process in this politically-charged climate, it would have met with significant opposition, potential litigation, and substantial delays in remedy implementation. Instead, the City requested that EPA "pause" its remedy selection process to allow for additional discussions.

For over a decade, Bruce Merchant has effectively represented the interests of the community of Kalamazoo at the Kalamazoo River Superfund Site and more specifically the Allied Landfill Operable Unit of that site. Bruce gained the trust and respect of the community as the former head of Public Services for the City of Kalamazoo (City). When, in 2007, EPA and the responsible parties sought to dispose of contaminated materials from the Plainwell impoundment located on the Kalamazoo River at Allied

Landfill, Bruce Merchant the City of Kalamazoo successfully led community resistance to that plan, blocking that plan. Since then, Bruce has been fully engaged at the OU first challenging and then more recently, aiding EPA during its decision making process and community outreach.

After spearheading the City's efforts to successfully block material from being added to Allied Landfill, Bruce became the main point of contact for the city on the issue and spearheaded efforts worked on behalf of the City to press EPA and elected officials for total removal of the waste. In the course of this work, various city officials, including Bruce came to the conclusion that total removal was not a viable end point for Allied Landfill.

It was at this time that the City of Kalamazoo came to the conclusion that the future of the site would be better served and the communities needs would be better met, by engaging in a collaborative effort with the agencies, and began looking for ways to foster a partnership. March Hatton, until recently, was the City of Kalamazoo Brownfields and Reuse Coordinator. During the pause, Marc saw an opportunity to develop a partnership. He worked his contacts with the state of Michigan to act as a mediator, to introduce the concept of viewing the site through a lense of redevelopment in order to initiate and energize a collaborative effort between the parties. When the city decided to collaborate with EPA on rethinking the future of and the remedy for Allied Landfill, Marc provided the vision for the redevelopment lense. He envisioned a property that was accessible and connected with the community, with mixed land use, repurposing components of the remedy to create a site-plan that would maximize development.

When EPA expressed a willingness to pause the remedy selection process and meet anew with the city, Bruce and Marc led City representation. Marc and Bruce met in person with EPA staff over forty times since early 2014 to address environmental, reuse, and risk perception issues that required resolution for the City and the public to come together and support a new alternative that would not result in removal of the waste. In the course of the collaboration,

Marc leveraged and risked his credibility by being the first City representative (without full political support) to reach out to the state of Michigan to engage in discussions on Allied that did not include total removal as a necessary starting point. Further, he led the city efforts to define the needs of the community and ultimately the best future use of the Allied property. Marc did this by collecting input from the citizens on their future use "wish list." This effort let EPA know that reuse with long-term stewardship led by the City was a viable future for Allied Landfill. EPA believes that this scenario, of active reuse and stewardship of the property after remedy implementation is more protective than the similar remedies described in the November 2013 FS which do not feature this active stewardship.

Bruce leveraged and risked his credibility to redirect the community to support a new cleanup alternative, that was counter to the full removal approach that was insisted upon previously. Bruce acted as the all important liason within the city of Kalamazoo between the political leaders and appointed managers. He also acted as the main leasion between the city and his state and federal parners. Bruce reached out to multiple groups in his efforts to inform and then ultimately sway an entrenched public. Bruce conducted multiple briefings with city commissioners and representatives of elected officials to consolidate support as the process evolved into the new alternative. He worked with EPA to realize a long-term partnership with EPA that would provide long-term stewardship at the site.

Marc led the city efforts to define the needs of the community and ultimately the best future use of the Allied property. Marc did this by collecting input from the citizens on their future use "wish list." This effort let EPA know that reuse with long-term stewardship led by the City was a viable future for Allied Landfill. EPA believes that this scenario, of active reuse and stewardship of the property after remedy implementation is more protective than the similar remedies described in the November 2013 FS which do not feature this active stewardship.

When EPA expressed a willingness to pause the remedy selection process and meet anew with the city, Bruce led City representation. With Marc, Bruce met in person with EPA staff over forty times since early 2014 to address environmental, reuse, and risk perception issues that required resolution for the City and the public to come together and support a new alternative that would not result in removal of the waste. In the course of the collaboration, Bruce leveraged and risked his credibility to redirect the community to support a new cleanup alternative.

Bruce reached out to multiple groups in his efforts to inform and then ultimately sway an entrenched public. Bruce conducted multiple briefings with city commissioners and representatives of elected officials to consolidate support for the new alternative.

March Hatton, until recently, was the City of Kalamazoo Brownfields and Reuse Coordinator. When the city decided to collaborate with EPA on rethinking the future of and the remedy for Allied Landfill, Marc provided the vision. He envisioned a property with mixed land use, repurposing components of the remedy to create a site plan that would maximize development. Marc led the city efforts to define the needs of the community and ultimately the best future use of the Allied property. Marc did this by collecting input from the citizens on their future use "wish list." This effort let EPA know that reuse with long-term stewardship led by the City was a viable future for Allied Landfill. EPA believes that this scenario, of active reuse and stewardship of the property after remedy implementation is more protective than the similar remedies described in the November 2013 FS which do not feature this active stewardship.

Worked with EPA to realize a long-term partnership with EPA that would provide long-term stewardship at the site.

Big Thought Conclusions

Bruce worked with the political apparatus of the City of kalamazoo to forge community support for opposition to the EPA plan. They used that community support to build political power. With that power they were able to get the attention of state and federal representatives on the allied site and on EPA's decision. When it became clear to Bruce and the city, that money would not be made available for a full cleanup, despite immense political support, he began looking for other paths forward. Once the

pathforward was identified, bruce set upon the process with great enthusiasm, oppenmindeness, and dedication with substantial risk to her person and professional reputation. Bruces talents allowed him to digest the complex technical issues, ponder the tortured political landscape, and ultimately forge a path to success. This process could not have moved forward without his incredible reputation at the city and his ability to bring credibility and trust to the process. His natural sensing, listening and communciaiton skills allowed him to bridge the gap and make connections between members of the public, members of the technical disiplines, city managers and department heads, and political representatives at the local state and federal level so that a common path between all the parties could be envisioned.

Denise Keele and Sarah Hill